By the Quene.

THe Quenes highnes well remembrynge what great inconuenience and daungers haue growen to this her hyghnes realme in tyme paſt thorough the diuerſitie of opinions, in queſtions of religion, and hearing alſo that now of late, ſithens the begynning of her mooſt gracioule reygne, the ſame contentions be agayne muche renewed thorowe certeyne falſe and vntrue reportes and rumors ſpredde by ſome lyght and euyll diſpoſed perſons, hath thought good to do to vnderſtande to all her hyghnes mooſt louynge and obedient ſubiectes, her mooſte gratious pleaſure, in maner and fourme folowynge.

FYRST her maieſtie being preſently by thonely goodnes of GOD ſettled in her iuſt poſſeſſion of thimperiall crowne of this realme, and other dominions therunto belongynge, can not nowe hyde that religion (whiche GOD and the worlde knoweth ſhe hath euer profeſſed from her infancy hitherto) whiche as her maieſtie is mynded to obſerue and maynteyne for her ſelfe by gods grace durynge her tyme, ſo dothe her highnes muche deſyre, and woulde be gladde the ſame were of all her ſubiectes quietly and charitablye embraced. And yet ſhe doth ſignifye vnto all her maieſties layde louinge ſubiectes, that of her mooſt gratious diſpoſition and clemency, her highnes myndeth not to compell any her layde ſubiectes therunto, vnto ſuche tyme as further order by common aſſent maye be taken therein. Forbyddinge neuertheleſſe, all her ſubiectes of all degrees, at theyr perylles, to moue ſedicions, or to ſtyrre vnquietnes in her people by interpretyng the lawes of this realme after theyr braynes and fanſies, but quietly to continue for the tyme, tyl asbefore is layde further order maye be taken. And therefore wylleth and ſtreyghtly chargeth and commaundeth all her layde good louynge ſubiectes, to lyue togethers in quiet ſorte, & chriſtian charitie, leauynge thoſe newe founde deuiliſhe termes of Papyſte or Heretique, and ſuche lyke, and applyenge theyr whole eares, ſtudye, and trauayle, to lyue in the feare of God, exerciſing theyr conuerſations in ſuche charitable and godlye doynge, as theyr liues maye in dede expreſſe that great hunger and thyrſt of Goddes glorye and holye worde, whiche by raſhe talke and wordes many haue pretended, and in ſo doynge, as they ſhall beſt pleaſe GOD, and lyue without daunger of the lawes, and maynteyne the tranquillite of the realme, wherof her hyghneſſe ſhalbe moſt gladde: ſo yf anye man ſhall raſhelye preſume to make any aſſembles of people, or at any publique aſſembles or otherwyſe, ſhall go aboute to ſtyrre the people to diſorder, or diſquiet, ſhe myndeth accordinge to her duetye, to ſee the ſame mooſt ſeuerely reformed and punyſhed, accordyng to her hygneſſe lawes.

AND furthermore, foraſmuche alſo as it is well knowen, that ſedition and falſe rumours haue bene nouryſhed and maynteyned in this realme, by the ſubtelty and malyce of ſome euell diſpoſed perſons, whiche take vpon them without ſufficient auctoritie, to preache, and to interprete the worde of GOD, after theyr owne brayne, in churches and other places, both publique and priuate. And alſo by playinge of Interludes and printynge of falſe fonde bookes, ballettes, rymes, and other lewde treatiſes in the englyſhe tonge, concernynge doctryne in matters now in queſtion and controuerſye, touchynge the hyghe poyntes and miſteries of chriſten religion, whiche bokes, ballettes, rymes, and treatiſes are chiefly by the Printers and Stacioners ſette out to ſale to her graces ſubiectes, of an euyll zeale, for lucre and couetous of vyle gayne. Her highnes therfore ſtrayghtly chargeth and commaundeth all and euery her layde ſubiectes, of what-

soeuer state, condition, or degree they be, that none of them presume from henceforth to preache, or by waye of readynge in Churches, or other publique or pryuate places (excepte in the scholes of the vniuersities) to interprete or teache any scriptures, or any maner poyntes of doctryne concernynge religion. Neyther also to prynte any bookes, matter, ballet, ryme, interlude, processe or treatyse nor to playe any interlude, except they haue her graces speciall licence in writynge for the same, vpon payne to incurre her highnesse indignation and displeasure.

AND her highnesse also further strayghtly chargeth and commaundeth all and euery her sayde subiectes, that none of them of theyr owne pryuate authoritie, do presume to punyshe, or to ryse agaynst any offendour in the causes aboue sayde, or any other offendour in wordes or dedes in the late rebellion commytted by the Duke of Northumberlande, or his complices, or to seise any of theyr goodes, or violentlye to vse anye suche offendour by strykynge, or imprysoninge, or threatynge the same, but wholy to referre the punyshment of all suche offendours vnto her highnes, and her publique authoritie, wherof her maiestie myndeth to see due punyshment accordyng to the ordre of her highnes lawes. Neuertheles as her highnes myndeth not hereby to restreyn and discourage any of her louinge subiectes, to geue from tyme to tyme true informacion agaynst any suche offendours in the causes aboue sayde, vnto her grace, or her counsell, for the punishment of euerye suche offendour, accordynge to the effecte of her hyghnesse lawes prouyded in that part. So her sayd highnes exhorteth and strayghtly chargeth her sayde subiectes to obserue her commaundement and pleasure in euery parte afore sayde, as they wyll auoyde her hyghnesse sayd indignation, and moost greuouse displeasure. The seueritie and rygour wherof, as her hyghnesse shalbe moost sorye to haue cause to put the same in execution: so doth she vtterlye determine not to permytte suche vnlawfull and rebellious doynges of her subiectes (wherof may ensue the daunger of her royall estate) to remayne vnpunyshed, but to see her sayde lawes, touchyng these poyntes, to be thoroughly executed, whiche extremities she trusteth all her sayde louynge subiectes wyll forsee, dreade, and auoyde accordinglye.

HER sayde hyghnesse strayghtely chargynge and commaundinge all Mayors, Sheryffes, Justices of peace, Bayliffes, Constables, and all other publique officers and ministers, diligently to see to the obseruynge and executynge of her sayde commaundementes, and pleasure, and to apprehende all suche as shall wylfully offende in this parte, committinge the same to the next gaile, there to remayne without bayle or maynepryse, tyll vpon certificate made to her highnes, or her pryuye counsell, of theyr names and doynges, and vpon examination had of theyr offences, some further ordre shalbe taken for theyr punyshment, to the example of others, accordynge to the effecte and tenor of the lawes afore sayde. ¶ Geuen at our manour of Rychemonde, the. xviii. of August. In the fyrste yeare of our moost prosperous reygne.

God saue the Quene.

Londini in ædibus Iohannis Cawodi

Typographi Reginæ excusum.

Anno. M. D. LIII.

Cum priuilegio ad imprimendum solum.